

What people are saying about PEAK?

Parent

Using humour and honesty, staff at PEAK guide the students toward maturity, independence and employability.

Employer

The student we have from the PEAK program is a pleasure to work with. It has been great to see her independence develop. The support the students receive is excellent!

Student

I have learned how to complete tasks on my own and at a faster pace and have become more independent.

I'm learning lots of new things, discovering more about my interests and about myself. I've also gained some amazing friends from the program and will appreciate them forever.

Being at PEAK and at my work placement has got me interested working in a restaurant. Now I want to go to Culinary School.

The PEAK program teaches us to believe in yourself and never give up!



Locations

PEAK North

20 Wilstead Drive
Newmarket, Ontario
(905) 836-0437

PEAK Central

Richmond Green S.S.
1 William F. Bell Parkway
Richmond Hill, Ontario
(905) 780-7858

PEAK West

The Promenade Mall
Suite 301-1
Thornhill, Ontario
(905) 882-6088

PEAK East

201 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario
(905) 479-2787 ext. 408



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PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT & APPLIED KNOWLEDGE



The PEAK program is

a transition program designed for senior secondary school students and serves as a bridge from school to adult life options including work, college vocational programs and community participation. Students complete the program with increased independence, confidence and purpose. The program supports students to function as independent, responsible and contributing members of society.

The program goals are to assist students to make an effective transition from secondary school to work, college and/or other adult life options. This is accomplished by gaining extensive exposure to the world of work while developing effective social skills and work habits which enhance quality of life. Another goal of the program is to encourage a well-balanced lifestyle.

The program consists of a 25% in-class component and a 75% community work placement.

The in-class component of the program includes English and Mathematical Literacy, Personal Life Management, Exploring the World of Work, Learning Strategies and Community Based Education. Employment readiness and transition planning for college vocational programs are also key components of PEAK. Practical challenges which come directly from the student's work placement provide tools and strategies necessary for life long success. The ultimate goal is to empower students and maximize their independence through teaching self-advocacy, critical thinking and self reflection.

Ideal candidates for the PEAK program will be students:

- typically participating in non-credit programs
- having an identification of a Mild Intellectual Disability or Developmental Disability or Autism
- having demonstrated successful work experience
- typically entering his/her last two years of secondary school
- able and willing to work and transit independently
- able and willing to work 4-5 hours per day 5 days per week
- interested in post-secondary school, part-time/full-time employment, volunteer work; and
- having a positive attitude, strong teamwork skills, maturity and excellent attendance

All of these are critical elements for success in the workplace and therefore, we emulate these skills in the classroom environment as well. It is an adult program where the students are treated as the adults that they are and the expectations are reciprocal.

Transition

The PEAK programs have been extremely successful with students graduating to employment opportunities and/or accessing college programs. All students graduate from the PEAK program with a Transition Plan that will assist them to reach their goals including connections to programs and resources for continued success. A holistic approach is used while examining all the areas/aspects which are necessary to lead to a full and rich adult life.

Referral Process

Students are referred by classroom teachers in conjunction with the Work Experience Program Co-ordinator. A Student Profile must be completed by the teacher and forwarded to the Student Services Coordinator no later than October 31 for the following school year. Selected students and their parents/guardians will be offered an interview by their respective PEAK teacher during November. Successful candidates will be notified prior to the student's IPRC.